

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 29, 2015 AT 5:00 PM

Mayor Horne opened the meeting by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Kittel, Ard, Jackson, Hansen, and Zajkowski.

Members Absent: Alderman Volkert

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Zajkowski moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Mayor's Appointment

Alderman Kittel moved to confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Christine Melby to the Park Board, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried. Alderman Zajkowski abstained.

Solar Garden

Mike Darrow explained that River Falls and the City of New Richmond were each awarded a grant to install a solar garden. The lot chosen for placement is owned by the City. A lot of information was included in the packet for review. There was considerable discussion regarding the lot chosen and the details of the lease, etc. Nick Vivian is reviewing the agreements at this time. In July, the utilities will begin to market this. The Plan Commission will be discussing the site plan at their meeting tomorrow night. No action was taken.

North Side Development

Mike Darrow explained that during the zoning ordinance update we looked at the North Side as a development gateway area. Now that the ordinance is updated, Mike would like to begin community discussions for this area as an opportunity for redevelopment. Mike would like to invite the north side businesses along Knowles to a business forum; discuss long and short term needs within that corridor; identify priority areas; and bring back the findings to the Council this fall with corridor evaluations and concepts. Fred Horne, Jim Zajkowski and Craig Kittel will be involved in the community meetings.

First Draft – Employee Handbook Sections 1-5

Mike Darrow stated that the Finance Committee has reviewed these sections of the handbook and has met with the subcommittee that has been reviewing the handbook. They have discussed drug testing for all employees, a nepotism policy, social media policies, a travel policy, and other sections. The larger issues include sick time, vacation time and longevity. Mike has made a matrix comparing us to Rice Lake, Menomonie, St. Croix County, and Pierce County. Alderman Kittel questioned when the policy will become effective and was concerned about consistency. No action was taken.

Library/Commons Project Update

The Council passed a resolution at the last meeting and the school board created their own resolution. The Commons Partners have a meeting on July 22, 2015. We haven't heard anything yet regarding next steps. The City needs to keep moving forward. We will discuss this again at the work session in August.

2016 Budget Goals and Projections

Mike stated that he will begin open house meetings starting in July on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Mike also discussed communications to the public. Several communities mail out quarterly communications. We will research this cost and see if there is interest. Finance will begin their overview in August. Last year the Council visited each department and took tours. Maybe that can be done every other year. If there are projects that the council would like to do, let Mike know. We could do a tour of the proposed street projects. There will be discussion regarding sidewalks and whether to install them or not and on what side of the street. The Council would like to have feedback from property owners. A meeting could be held on site to talk with property owners.

Communications and Miscellaneous

On Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. the Wisconsin Department of Tourism will present the Gem Grant check for \$17,600 which is a media fund for the Welcome Home Event.

Closed Session

Alderman Ard moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c)(e) TIF#6 and Employee Benefit Information and/or Wages in Which the City of New Richmond has Jurisdiction, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Open Session

Alderman Kittel moved to approve the following resolution with the closing date extension of July 31, 2015 and approval of the parking cross-easement:

RESOLUTION #061504

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, the City of New Richmond is the owner of real estate described as:

SEC 10 T30N R18W PT SE NE; CSM 26-5938 LOT 4

WHEREAS, the City has entered into an Offer to Purchase with Burger Brothers Holdings, LLC, Whereby the City would sell this parcel to Burger Brothers Holdings, LLC; and

WHEREAS, all necessary contingencies have been met and the transaction is ready to be closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of New Richmond as follows:

1. That the City shall proceed with the sale of the real estate to Burger Brothers Holdings, LLC
2. That Mayor, Frederick Horne, and Tanya Reigel, City Clerk, are authorized to execute all documents necessary to complete the sale of the property.

Motion was seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Alderman Ard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Tanya Reigel
City Clerk